WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A method for transferring electronic information, comprising:

2   receiving a command to transmit a portion of a file of electronic

3 information; and

4   in response to the received command, automatically copying the portion of

5 the file of electronic information to create a copied file of electronic information,

6 transmitting the copied file, and rendering the portion of the file of electronic

7 information unusable.

1   2. A method according to Claim 1, comprising:

2   determining whether the portion of the file of electronic information should

3 be automatically copied and rendered unusable.

1   3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the determining step is based

2 on an electronic tag associated with the portion of the file of electronic

3 information.

1   4. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   determining that the portion of the file of electronic information has been

3 rendered unusable; and

4   transmitting a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of electronic

5 information has been rendered unusable.

1   5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the file is received from an

2 entity, and

3   wherein the certificate is transmitted to the entity.

1   6. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the certificate is transmitted to
2   an owner of a copyright in the file of electronic information.

1   7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering step comprises
2   erasing the portion of the file of electronic information.

1   8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic information
2   comprises at least one of an image, text, multimedia, a movie, audio, music,
3   software, news, weather, sports news, and data.

1   9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of automatically
2   copying comprises at least one of creating an electronic mail message, copying
3   to electronic storage, copying to magnetic storage, and copying to optical
4   storage.

1   10. A method for providing a file of electronic information, comprising:
2   providing a file of electronic information;
3   receiving a copy of a portion of the file of electronic information; and
4   receiving a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of electronic
5   information has been rendered unusable.

1   11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the file is provided to a
2   consumer in fulfillment of a subscription.

1   12. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the portion of the file of
2   electronic information is erased in order to render the file unusable.

1   13. A method according to Claim 10, further comprising providing the

2   certificate to an owner of a copyright in the portion of the file of electronic

3   information.

1   14. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the file of information

2   comprises a tag indicating that the portion of the file should be rendered

3   unusable if the portion of the file is copied.

1   15. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the electronic information

2   comprises at least one of an image, text, multimedia, a movie, audio, music,

3   software, news, weather, sports news, and data.

1   16. A medium storing processor-executable process steps to transfer

2   electronic information, the process steps comprising:

3   a step to receive a command to transmit a portion of a file of electronic

4   information; and

5   in response to the received command, steps to automatically copy the

6   portion of the file of electronic information to create a copied file of electronic

7   information, to transmit the copied file, and to render the portion of the file of

8   electronic information unusable.

1   17. A medium according to Claim 16, the process steps comprising:

2   a step to determine whether the portion of the file of electronic information

3   should be automatically copied and rendered unusable.

1   18. A medium according to Claim 17, wherein the determining step is

2   based on an electronic tag associated with the portion of the file of electronic

3   information.

1   19. A medium according to Claim 16, the process steps further

2 comprising:

3   a step to determine that the portion of the file of electronic information has

4 been rendered unusable; and

5   a step to transmit a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of

6 electronic information has been rendered unusable.

1   20. A medium according to Claim 19, wherein the file is received from an

2 entity, and

3   wherein the certificate is transmitted to the entity.

1   21. A medium according to Claim 19, wherein the certificate is transmitted

2 to an owner of a copyright in the portion of the file of electronic information.

1   22. A medium storing procesor-executable process steps to provide a file

2 of electronic information, the process steps comprising:

3   a step to provide a file of electronic information;

4   a step to receive a copy of a portion of the file of electronic information;

5 and

6   a step to receive a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of

7 electronic information has been rendered unusable.

1   23. A medium according to Claim 22, wherein the file of information

2 comprises a tag indicating that the portion of the file should be rendered

3 unusable if the portion of the file is copied.

1   24. An apparatus for transferring electronic information, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a storage device in communication with said processor and storing

4   instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

5   receive a command to transmit a file of electronic information; and

6   in response to the received command, automatically copy a portion of the

7   file of electronic information to create a copied file of electronic information,

8   transmit the copied file, and render the portion of the file of electronic information

9   unusable.

1   25. An apparatus according to Claim 24, the storage device further

2   storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

3   determine whether the portion of the file of electronic information should

4   be automatically copied and rendered unusable.

1   26. An apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the determining step is

2   based on an electronic tag associated with the portion of the file of electronic

3   information.

1   27. An apparatus according to Claim 24, the storage device further

2   storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

3   determine that the portion of the file of electronic information has been

4   rendered unusable; and

5   transmit a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of electronic

6   information has been rendered unusable.

1   28. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the file is received from

2   an entity, and

3   wherein the certificate is transmitted to the entity.

1   29. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the certificate is

2   transmitted to an owner of a copyright in the portion of the file of electronic

3   information.

1   30. An apparatus for providing a file of electronic information, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a storage device in communication with said processor and storing

4   instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

5   provide a file of electronic information;

6   receive a copy of a portion of the file of electronic information; and

7   receive a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of electronic

8   information has been rendered unusable.

1   31. An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the file of information

2   comprises a tag indicating that the portion of the file should be rendered

3   unusable if the portion of the file is copied.

1   32. A system for transferring electronic information, comprising:

2   a subscription device comprising:

3   a first processor; and

4   a first storage device in communication with the first processor and

5   storing instructions adapted to be executed by the first processor to:

6   transmit a file of electronic information according to a subscription;

7   and

8   receive a certificate certifying that a portion of the file of electronic

9   information has been rendered unusable; and

10

11   a consumer device comprising:

12   a second processor; and

13   a second storage device in communication with the second

14   processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by the second

15   processor to:

16   receive the file of electronic information;

17   receive a command to transmit a portion of the file of electronic

18   information;

19   determine whether the portion of the file of electronic information

20   should be automatically copied and rendered unusable;

21   automatically copy the portion of the file of electronic information to

22   create a copied file of electronic information;

23   transmit the copied file;

24   render the portion of the file of electronic information unusable; and

25   transmit the certificate to the subscription device.

1   33. A system according to Claim 32, wherein the copied file is transmitted

2   to the subscription device.

1   34. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the portion of the file of

2   electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1   35. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the portion of the file of

2   electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1   36. A medium according to Claim 16, wherein the portion of the file of

2   electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1   37. A medium according to Claim 22, wherein the portion of the file of

2   electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1   38. An apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the portion of the file of

2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1   39. An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the portion of the file of

2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1   40. A system according to Claim 32, wherein the portion of the file of

2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.